

**PCT**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
International Bureau

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

<b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>6</sup> :</b> <b>A61K 38/17</b>	<b>A1</b>	<b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 96/39168</b> <b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 12 December 1996 (12.12.96)
<b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/US96/09143 <b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 5 June 1996 (05.06.96)  <b>(30) Priority Data:</b> 08/482,454                      6 June 1995 (06.06.95)                      US  <b>(71) Applicant:</b> THE IMMUNE RESPONSE CORPORATION [US/US]; 5935 Darwin Court, Carlsbad, CA 92008 (US).  <b>(72) Inventors:</b> KWOH, Deborah, Y.; 2404 Jacaranda Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92009 (US). BROSTOFF, Steven, W.; 7323 Black Swan Place, Carlsbad, CA 92009 (US). CARLO, Dennis, J.; P.O. Box 1176, Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92067 (US).  <b>(74) Agents:</b> HOOK, Gregory, R. et al.; Campbell and Flores L.L.P., Suite 700, 4370 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, CA 92122 (US).		<b>(81) Designated States:</b> AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).  <b>Published</b> <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

**(54) Title:** METHOD FOR INCREASING HDL CHOLESTEROL LEVEL**(57) Abstract**

The present invention provides a method for increasing HDL cholesterol in a mammal by stimulating an immune response that inhibits the function of CETP. Such an immune response can be induced by immunizing with CETP or fragments of CETP (together termed "CETP Peptides") which contain an epitope capable of stimulating such a response. The peptides can be conjugated to a carrier, such as KLH or ovalbumin, in order to increase immunogenicity. Adjuvants can also be administered.

**FOR THE PURPOSES OF INFORMATION ONLY**

Codes used to identify States party to the PCT on the front pages of pamphlets publishing international applications under the PCT.

AM	Armenia	GB	United Kingdom	MW	Malawi
AT	Austria	GE	Georgia	MX	Mexico
AU	Australia	GN	Guinea	NE	Niger
BB	Barbados	GR	Greece	NL	Netherlands
BE	Belgium	HU	Hungary	NO	Norway
BF	Burkina Faso	IE	Ireland	NZ	New Zealand
BG	Bulgaria	IT	Italy	PL	Poland
BJ	Benin	JP	Japan	PT	Portugal
BR	Brazil	KE	Kenya	RO	Romania
BY	Belarus	KG	Kyrgyzstan	RU	Russian Federation
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SD	Sudan
CF	Central African Republic	KR	Republic of Korea	SE	Sweden
CG	Congo	KZ	Kazakhstan	SG	Singapore
CH	Switzerland	LI	Liechtenstein	SI	Slovenia
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	LK	Sri Lanka	SK	Slovakia
CM	Cameroon	LR	Liberia	SN	Senegal
CN	China	LT	Lithuania	SZ	Swaziland
CS	Czechoslovakia	LU	Luxembourg	TD	Chad
CZ	Czech Republic	LV	Larvia	TG	Togo
DE	Germany	MC	Monaco	TJ	Tajikistan
DK	Denmark	MD	Republic of Moldova	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
EE	Estonia	MG	Madagascar	UA	Ukraine
ES	Spain	ML	Mali	UG	Uganda
FI	Finland	MN	Mongolia	US	United States of America
FR	France	MR	Mauritania	UZ	Uzbekistan
GA	Gabon			VN	Viet Nam

## METHOD FOR INCREASING HDL CHOLESTEROL LEVEL

This invention relates generally to the field of immunotherapy and, more specifically, to methods of stimulating an immune response to cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP).

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Blood cholesterol levels have long been thought to correlate directly with risk of atherosclerotic cardiac disease, the leading cause of heart attacks. More recently, it has been appreciated that blood cholesterol is actually composed of two primary forms: the high density lipoproteins (HDL) and low density lipoproteins (LDL). Rather than being associated with the disease risk, high HDL levels are apparently inversely predictive. In fact, studies have now indicated that HDL has a direct action in protecting against atherosclerosis and may even promote atherosclerosis plaque regression.

Numerous factors are involved in regulating the level of cholesterol in the body. Cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) is an enzyme responsible for transporting cholesterol esters (CE) from HDL to very low density lipoproteins (VLDL) and LDL. VLDL's are eventually converted into LDL. CETP accelerates specifically the exchange of lipid components between pro- and anti-atherogenic lipo protein fractions. In particular, there is a strong inverse correlation between the levels of CETP in the plasma and the levels of HDL cholesterol. CETP activity levels are elevated in individuals suffering from dietary or genetic hypercholesterolemia. Increased levels of CETP activity result in lowered levels of HDL. In contrast, individuals with deficiencies in CETP activity due to mutations in the CETP gene have markedly elevated HDL levels.

The immune systems of higher organisms developed as a means for protecting the individual against invasion by deleterious foreign materials such as viruses, bacteria and parasites. Cells of the immune system are able to distinguish between materials from the individuals own body (termed "self" materials) and foreign material, or antigens. When foreign material enters the body, the immune system mounts a response. Antibodies that specifically recognize and bind to the foreign material are produced (the antibody or humoral response.) In addition, T cells are mobilized to repel the foreign substance (the T cell or cellular response.) Materials which are recognized as self do not normally stimulate such responses except in certain pathological conditions, primarily auto-immune disease. Even where the presence of an endogenous protein is itself deleterious, the immune system cannot serve as a regulator if the material is recognized as self.

Because of HDL'S potentially beneficial effect in preventing atherosclerosis, there exists a need for methods which can be used to increase its level in the serum. Such methods should ideally be specific and reliable and involve as little invasion of the body as possible. The present invention satisfies this need and provides related advantages as well.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a method for increasing HDL cholesterol in a mammal by stimulating an immune response that inhibits the function of CETP. Such an immune response can be induced by immunizing with CETP or fragments of CETP (together termed "CETP Peptides") which contain an epitope capable of stimulating such a response. The peptides can be conjugated to a carrier, such as Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin (KLH) or ovalbumin, in

order to increase immunogenicity. Adjuvants can also be administered.

In one embodiment, the fragments of CETP used to raise the antibody response are about ten to twenty  
5 amino acids in length and contain sequences homologous to the sequence in rabbit or human CETP.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1 shows the anti-CETP peptide titer during the immunization period for animals immunized with  
10 either toxoid conjugated peptide (solid line), free peptide (dashed line) or saline (dotted line). The error bar represents the standard deviation.

Figure 2 shows the CETP activity during the immunization period for animals immunized with either  
15 toxoid conjugated peptide (solid line), free peptide (dashed line) or saline (dotted line). The error bar represents the standard deviation.

Figure 3 shows the CETP activity as a function of time after feeding immunized animals a cholesterol  
20 diet. The animals were immunized with either toxoid conjugated peptide (solid line) or free peptide (dashed line). The error bar represents the standard deviation.

Figure 4 shows the HDL-cholesterol level as a function of time after feeding immunized animals a  
25 cholesterol diet. The animals were immunized with toxoid conjugated peptide (solid line) or free peptide (dashed line). The error bar represents the standard deviation.

Figure 5 shows the LDL-cholesterol level as a function of time after feeding immunized animals a  
30 cholesterol diet. The animals were immunized with either

toxoid conjugated peptide (solid line) or free peptide (dashed line). The error bar represents the standard deviation.

Figure 6 shows the LDL/HDL-cholesterol ratio as a function of time after feeding immunized animals a cholesterol diet. The animals were immunized with either toxoid conjugated peptide (solid line) or free peptide (dashed line). The error bar represents the standard deviation.

## 10                    DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a means to utilize the body's own immune system to lower CETP levels, thereby increasing the level of beneficial HDL cholesterol. The invention provides an effective method of raising HDL in the blood or more specifically, the serum. By utilizing the body's own immune system to increase HDL levels, the invention avoids the problems associated with the repeated administration of drugs, which have undesirable side effects.

20                    According to the present invention, CETP peptide is administered to an appropriate individual in such a manner as to elicit an anti-CETP immune response. The CETP peptide can be chosen to contain an epitope capable of stimulating an antibody or humoral response. 25 Alternatively, the CETP peptide can stimulate a cellular response, or other immune response. CETP peptides can be elected to contain B cell epitopes, sequences capable of stimulating the production of antibodies that specifically recognize and bind to the epitope. 30 Alternatively, CETP peptides can be chosen which stimulate a T cell or more general immune response.

Individuals exhibiting, or at risk of exhibiting, low serum levels of HDL cholesterol are particularly appropriate for such treatment. Serum HDL levels can be determined using methods well-known in the art (See Warnick, G.R. J.Lipid. Res., 19:65 (1978), for example, which is incorporated herein by reference). Serum HDL of less than about 30-35 mg/dl is considered low. Subjects exhibiting a serum HDL level below this level are particularly suitable for the treatment of the invention.

The protein or peptide to be administered can be all or part of the CETP protein, so long as the protein or peptide contains a B cell and/or T cell epitope. As used herein, "CETP peptide" is intended to include both the full length CETP amino acid sequence as well as fragments thereof. The peptides can have a sequence corresponding to or homologous to a mammalian CETP sequence. It will be appreciated that the peptide can differ from the native sequence to some extent so long as it is capable of inducing antibodies that inhibit the activity of CETP.

CETP is a 55 kD protein based on its amino acid sequence, but with post-translational modifications it has an apparent molecular weight of 66-74 kD. The human CETP mRNA sequence is available in Genbank (accession number M30185). The rabbit CETP mRNA sequence is available in Genbank (accession number M27486). The genbank sequences were translated using the MacVector software program (I.B.M., New Haven, Connecticut) to obtain the complete amino acids sequence of human and rabbit CETP.

Because CETP and its peptide derivatives may be recognized as "self" antigens, carriers can be used to increase their immunogenicity. Such carriers are well

known in the art and include, for example, such compounds as Keyhole Limpet Hemocyanin (KLH), ovalbumin, Diphtheria toxoid (Wako BioProducts), and Tetanus toxoid (Connaught). The CETP peptides can be conjugated to such  
5 carriers by methods well-known in the art. See Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, Ausebell, Brent, Kingston, Moore, Seidman, Smith & Strull eds. (1987), or manufacturers' instructions, which is incorporated herein by reference. The immunogenicity of the peptides can be  
10 also increased by administration of a adjuvant. Various adjuvants are well-known and available. See Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Harlow and Lane eds., (1988) which is incorporated herein by reference.

The extent of the anti-CETP response induced by  
15 the administration of the CETP peptides can be monitored using a variety of assays. For example, competitive format immunoassays can be employed using anti-CETP antibodies or anti-CETP antiserum. Alternatively, the activity level of the CETP in the subject individual can  
20 be monitored using, for example a <sup>3</sup>H-cholesterol oleate transfer assay. Lasuncion, M.A., et al. Biochem J., 270:441-449 (1990). Reduction in CETP activity is an indirect indication of the anti-CETP response.

The following examples are intended to  
25 illustrate but not limit the invention.



## Example 1

## Administration of CETP peptide immunogen

Peptides corresponding to portions of the human, rabbit and rabbit/human CETP were prepared according to standard peptide synthesis protocols. The following peptide sequences were prepared:

H-Cys-Asp-Ser-Gly-Arg-Val-Arg-Thr-Asp-Ala-Pro-Asp-OH  
(SEQ ID No.: 1)

H-Cys-Asp-Ala-Gly-Ser-Val-Arg-Thr-Asn-Ala-Pro-Asp-OH  
10 (SEQ ID No.: 2)

H-His-Leu-Leu-Val-Asp-Phe-Leu-Gln-Ser-Leu-Ser-OH.  
(SEQ ID No.: 3)

The first peptide (SEQ ID 1) is taken from the Human CETP peptide sequence (residues 131-142 without signal peptide) from Smith and Barakat, Med. Sci. Res., 21:911-912 (1993), which is incorporated herein by reference. The second peptide (SEQ ID 2) is the corresponding rabbit sequence and differs by only 3 amino acids from the human.

20 The third peptide (SEQ ID 3) is common to both human and rabbit and is an epitope recognized by anti-CETP-monoclonal antibody which is neutralizing. Tall, A.R., J. Lipids Res., 34:1255-1257 (1993).

The peptides were conjugated to ovalbumin by the procedure of Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, supra. Of four New Zealand White rabbits, approximately four months of age, two were injected intramuscularly with 100 micrograms of the ovalbumin-conjugated human peptide (Seq. ID No.: 1) and CFA in PBS and two were injected with the equivalent human/rabbit peptide (Seq. ID No. 3). The animals were boosted twice at one month

intervals with the same peptides in incomplete Freund's adjuvant (IFA).

### Example 2

#### Immunization with toxoid conjugated CETP

5           Three groups of female New Zealand rabbits (3 animals per group) were immunized with either toxoid conjugated peptide, free peptide or saline. The immunizations were administered once every seven weeks for a total of four immunizations during the immunization  
10 period. Each immunization was intradermally administered at ten sites on the back of each animal. Each immunogen was emulsified in IFA and each site on each animal received 100  $\mu$ g of emulsion or 1 ml per animal per immunization.

15           The peptide used for the toxoid conjugated peptide and free peptide was the same, H-His-Leu-Leu-Val-Asp-Phe-Leu-Gln-Ser-Leu-Ser-OH (SEQ ID No.: 3). The peptide of the toxoid conjugated peptide was conjugated  
20 to either diphtheria-toxoid or tetanus-toxoid. Both toxoid conjugated peptides were administered to the animals in the toxoid conjugated peptide group. The diphtheria-toxoid conjugated peptide and tetanus-toxoid conjugated peptide were administered in alternative  
25 immunizations to avoid carrier-induced immunosuppression. (See Gaur, A., Int. Immunol., 2:151 (1990), for example, which is incorporated herein by reference).

Before, during and for eight weeks after the immunization period, all animals were fed normal chow.  
30 Eight weeks after the last immunization, animals in the toxoid conjugated peptide and free peptide groups were switched to and remained on a feed containing 1% cholesterol. All animals had free access to food and

water during the experiment except for a fourteen hour fast prior to blood sampling.

Anti-CETP peptide titer was determined by an ELISA assay. Briefly, peptides conjugated to KLH were  
5 coated on microtiter plates, the plates incubated with diluted serum and bound antibody detected with a goat- $\alpha$ -rabbit-HRP antibody. The anti-CETP peptide titer was reported as the reciprocal of the dilution that gave 50% of the maximal response.

10 A significant anti-CETP peptide titer (greater than  $10^3$ ) was produced in the toxoid conjugated peptide group during the immunization period. In contrast, the animals in the free peptide and saline groups did not produce a significant anti-CETP peptide titer. The anti-  
15 CETP peptide titer resulting during the immunization period is summarized in Figure 1.

CETP activity was determined prior to the first immunization (the "pre-bleed period") and until the  
20 experiment was terminated. CETP activity was determined by isolating HDL from human serum and labeled  $^3\text{H}$ -cholesterol oleate using well known methods (See, Lasuncion, M.A., Biochem. J., 270:441 (1990), for example, which is incorporated herein by reference). The  
25  $^3\text{H}$ -HDL (3000 cpm) was incubated for one hour at 37°C with VLDL and 2.5  $\mu\text{l}$  sample serum in a total volume of 50  $\mu\text{l}$  of 50 mM Tris, 150 mM NaCl, 2 mM EDTA at pH 7.4. The reaction was stopped with 450  $\mu\text{l}$  human serum and precipitated by phosphotungstic acid and  $\text{MgCl}_2$ . The  
30 supernatant and resuspended precipitate were counted in a scintillation counter and the results reported as a CETP activity ratio which is the percentage of the  $^3\text{H}$ -cholesterol ester transferred normalized to the average percent transfer of the saline group.

A significant decrease in the CETP activity was found for animals in the toxoid conjugated group. The CETP activity during the immunization period is summarized in Figure 2.

5

Purified antibody from animals in the toxoid conjugated peptide group inhibited CETP activity by 42%. In comparison, purified antibody from animals in the saline group inhibited CETP activity by less than 2%.

10 The monoclonal antibody TP-2, known to react with CETP, inhibited CETP activity by 52% (See Whitlock, M.E., J. Clin. Invest., 84:129 (1989), for example). The antibodies to CETP produced by the animals in the toxoid conjugated peptide group thus result in the decreased  
15 CETP activity that occurs in that group. Antibodies were purified from serum using well known HPLC high capacity protein-A column chromatography methods.

Total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol and triglyceride levels were determined  
20 during the pre-bleed period, the immunization period and after immunization. The LDL cholesterol was estimated according to the Friedewald, Ley and Fredrickson equation (See Friedewald, W.T., Clin Chem., 18:499 (1972), herein incorporated by reference).

25 During the pre-bleed period and while the animals were fed normal chow, no significant difference was detected in cholesterol or triglyceride levels among groups. The total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol and triglyceride levels during these periods  
30 are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Comparison of serum cholesterol and triglyceride levels in rabbits for each immunization period.

Immunization	Period	Total Cholesterol (mg/dL)*	HDL Cholesterol (mg/dL)*	LDL Cholesterol (mg/dL)*	Total Triglycerides (mg/dL)*
Saline	0 (Pre-bleed)	52.8 ± 8.0	22.9 ± 2.1	21.3 ± 6.0	43.0 ± 3.3
	1 (Weeks 0-6)	53.9 ± 8.6	28.1 ± 3.3	17.6 ± 7.6	35.9 ± 0.8
	2 (Weeks 7-14)	54.7 ± 5.0	30.9 ± 2.7	16.2 ± 2.9	41.3 ± 2.6
	3 (Weeks 15-21)	40.9 ± 6.6	25.3 ± 4.2	7.7 ± 3.0	39.4 ± 1.1
	4 (Weeks 22-28)	40.5 ± 3.5	25.4 ± 3.4	7.9 ± 1.0	36.2 ± 4.1
5 Free peptide	0 (Pre-bleed)	46.2 ± 0.9	20.2 ± 1.9	16.3 ± 4.1	48.5 ± 9.2
	1 (Weeks 0-6)	46.3 ± 0.5	25.3 ± 1.7	13.3 ± 2.8	38.9 ± 9.3
	2 (Weeks 7-14)	53.7 ± 6.4	29.3 ± 1.1	12.6 ± 6.3	49.2 ± 10.0
	3 (Weeks 15-21)	39.7 ± 3.7	24.6 ± 1.3	6.5 ± 5.3	43.3 ± 16.6
	4 (Weeks 22-28)	38.5 ± 3.5	23.8 ± 1.4	6.3 ± 4.4	42.3 ± 15.0
Conjugated peptide	0 (Pre-bleed)	57.8 ± 28.0	23.7 ± 11.2	24.1 ± 13.8	50.3 ± 14.9
	1 (Weeks 0-6)	56.9 ± 15.8	30.9 ± 11.3	18.1 ± 7.7	46.2 ± 4.3
	2 (Weeks 7-14)	44.0 ± 15.0	26.7 ± 8.6	10.3 ± 4.5	34.9 ± 9.6
	3 (Weeks 15-21)	44.0 ± 12.5	27.0 ± 8.5	10.4 ± 2.5	33.2 ± 11.1
	4 (Weeks 22-28)	48.0 ± 10.4	28.0 ± 6.5	12.5 ± 4.6	38.0 ± 9.9

\* Each value represents the mean ± standard deviation for 6 bleeds (pre-bleed period) or 7 bleeds for subsequent periods.

When animals were switched to a 1% cholesterol diet, the total cholesterol, the LDL-cholesterol and CETP activity significantly increased relative to that on the normal chow diet for animals in both the toxoid

5 conjugated peptide group and free peptide group. The total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, total triglycerides, HDL-triglycerides, CETP activity and anti-CETP peptide titer before and after cholesterol feeding are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2.** Comparison of serological markers in rabbits immunized with toxoid conjugated peptide and free peptide before and after cholesterol feeding.

Group	Cholesterol*	Total		HDL		LDL		Total		HDL		CETP		Anti-CETP	
		Cholesterol		Cholesterol		Cholesterol		Triglycerides		Triglycerides		P Activity Ratio		CETP Antibody Titer	
		(mg/dL)		(mg/dL)		(mg/dL)		(mg/dL)		(mg/dL)					
Free peptide	-	39.8 ±	5.7	24.7 ±	4.0	5.5 ±	5.0	48.3 ±	15.0	20.5 ±	3.4	0.91 ±	0.07	1.76 ±	1
	+	1810.5 ±	195.7	23.0 ±	2.6	1770.8 ±	189.5	83.9 ±	24.9	17.5 ±	4.5	1.15 ±	0.08	1.78 ±	4
Conjugated peptide	-	48.0 ±	10.4	28.0 ±	6.5	12.5 ±	4.6	37.9 ±	9.9	17.6 ±	3.6	0.70 ±	0.09†	1:13860 ±	6274
	+	1115.9 ±	140.0	34.9 ±	2.1†	1437.3 ±	333.2	85.6 ±	41.2	17.6 ±	2.1	0.93 ±	0.08§	1:5939 ±	620

\* Each measurement is the mean±standard deviation of eight weeks (Week 21-28) just prior to the cholesterol diet (-) and 5 weeks (Week 29-32) after giving 1% cholesterol (+). Differences were determined by paired student's t test.

† p = 0.021, n=3.

‡ p = 0.003, n=3.

§ p = 0.013, n=3.

The CETP activity for animals on a cholesterol diet was significantly lower for the toxoid conjugated peptide group relative to that of the free peptide group. The CETP activity for such animals as a function of time on a cholesterol diet is summarized in Figure 3.

The HDL-cholesterol level for animals on a cholesterol chow diet was significantly higher for the toxoid conjugated peptide group relative to the free peptide group. The HDL-cholesterol level for such animals as a function of time on a cholesterol diet is summarized in Figure 4.

The LDL-cholesterol level for animals on a cholesterol diet was not significantly different for the toxoid conjugated peptide group relative to the free peptide group. The LDL-cholesterol level for such animals as a function of time on a cholesterol diet is summarized in Figure 5.

The LDL/HDL-cholesterol level ratio for animals on a cholesterol chow diet was significantly higher for the free peptide group relative to the toxoid conjugated peptide group. The LDL/HDL-cholesterol level ratio for such animals as a function of time on a cholesterol diet is summarized in Figure 5.

The results show that immunizing animals with the toxoid conjugated peptide raises the HDL-cholesterol level in animals fed a cholesterol diet. Low HDL-cholesterol levels are associated with increased risk of atherosclerosis regardless of the LDL-cholesterol level. Immunization against CETP thus can reduce the risk of atherosclerosis by raising the HDL-cholesterol level.

Although the invention has been described with reference to the presently preferred embodiments, it



should be understood that various modifications can be made without departing from the spirit of the invention. Accordingly, the invention is limited only by the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of stimulating an immune response to increase HDL cholesterol in a mammal exhibiting low levels of serum HDL comprising administering to said  
5 mammal a composition comprising an immunogenic epitope of CETP.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is substantially purified CETP.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said  
10 composition is a peptide.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition contains a B cell epitope.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein said peptide is:

15 H-Cys-Asp-Ala-Gly-Ser-Val-Arg-Thr-Asn-Ala-Pro-Asp-  
OH

H-Cys-Asp-Ser-Gly-Arg-Val-Arg-Thr-Asp-Ala-Pro-Asp-  
OH

H-His-Leu-Leu-Val-Asp-Phe-Leu-Gln-Ser-Leu-Ser-OH.

20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition comprises a carrier.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein said carrier is selected from the group consisting of KLH, ovalbumin, Diphtheria toxoid and Tetanus toxoid.

25 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is administered with an adjuvant.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said administration is repeated.

1 / 3

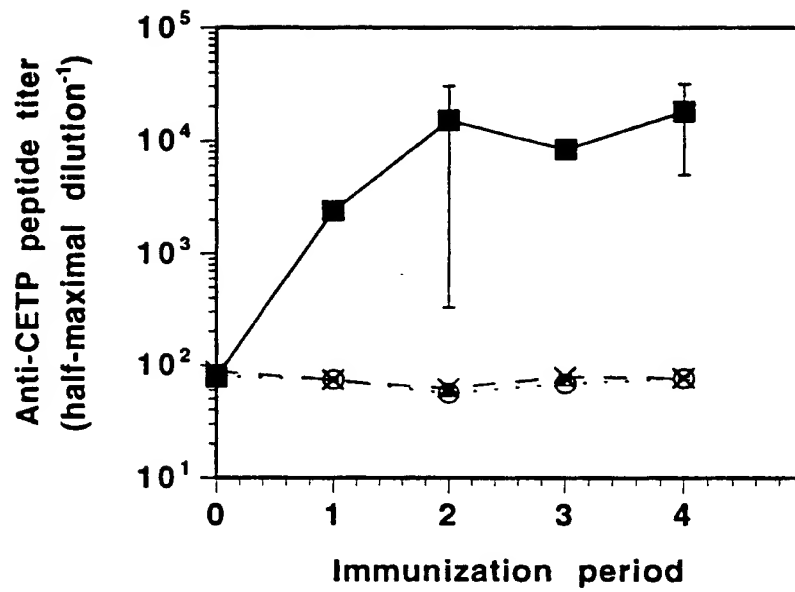


FIG. 1

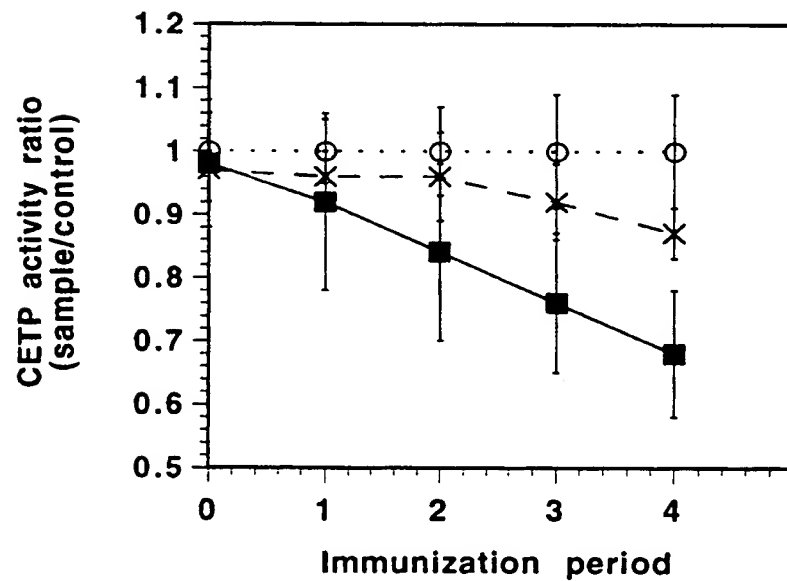


FIG. 2

2 / 3

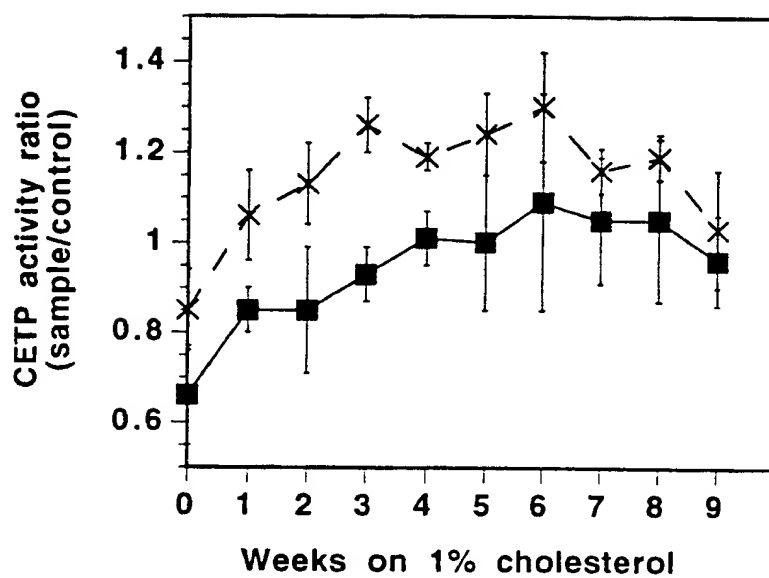


FIG. 3

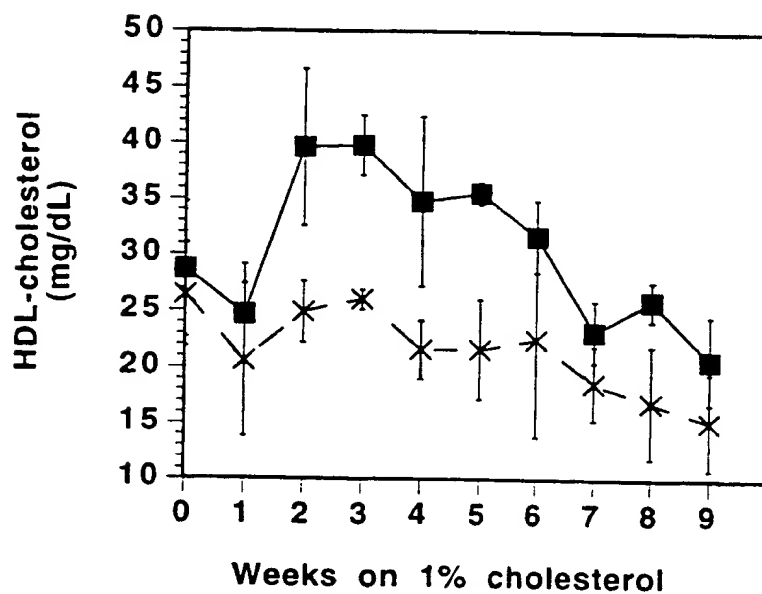


FIG. 4

3 / 3

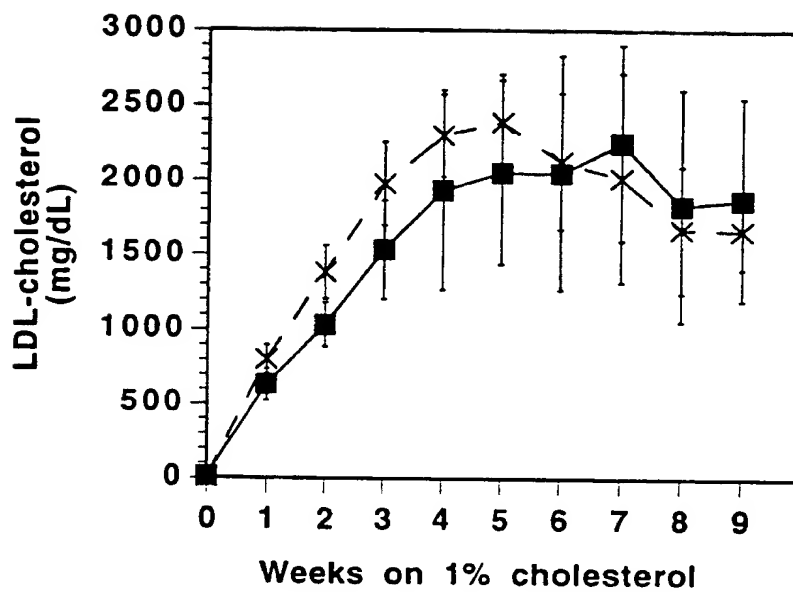


FIG. 5

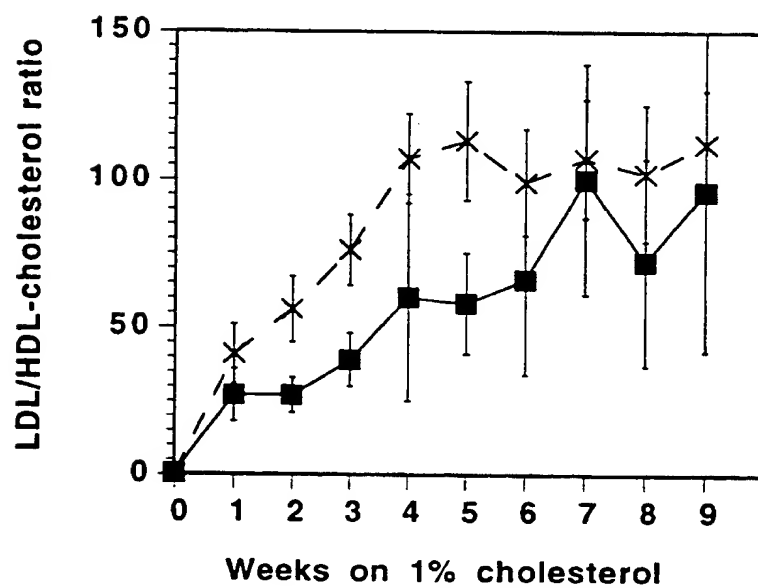


FIG. 6

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern: al Application No

PCT 96/09143

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
IPC 6 A61K38/17

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07K A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	DATABASE MEDLINE FILE SERVER STN KARLSRUHE ABSTRACT 95105666, EVANS ET AL: "INHIBITION OF CHOLESTERYL ESTER TRANSFER PROTEIN IN NORMOCHOLESTEROLEMIC AND HYPERCHOLESTEROLEMIC HAMSTERS: EFFECTS ON HDL SUBSPECIES, QUANTITY, AND APOLIPOPROTEIN DISTRIBUTION" XP002014308 & JOURNAL OF LIPID RESEARCH, (1994 SEP) 35(9) 1634-45 see abstract  --- -/--	1-9



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 September 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

14.10.96

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Sitch, W

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Intern al Application No

CT/US 96/09143

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 264, no. 24, 25 August 1989, pages 14318-14326, XP000575971 SWENSON T L ET AL: "MECHANISM OF CHOLESTERYL ESTER TRANSFER PROTEIN INHIBITION BY A NEUTRALIZING MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY AND MAPPING OF THE MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY EPITOPE" see page 14318,abstract and paragraphs 1-3 ---	1-9
X	JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY, vol. 267, no. 25, 5 September 1992, pages 17487-17490, XP000575972 WANG S ET AL: "IDENTIFICATION OF A SEQUENCE WITHIN THE C-TERMINAL 26 AMINO ACIDS OF CHOLESTERYL ESTER TRANSFER PROTEIN RESPONSIBLE FOR BINDING A NEUTRALIZING MONOCLONAL ANTIBODY AND NECESSARY FOR NEUTRAL LIPID TRANSFER ACTIVITY" see page 17487,abstract ---	1-9
A	WO,A,93 11782 (SOUTHWEST FOUND BIOMED RES) 24 June 1993 ---	
A	WO,A,95 04755 (SOUTHWEST FOUND BIOMED RES) 16 February 1995 -----	



## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 96/09143

**Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Remark: Although claims 1 - 9 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

**Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

**Remark on Protest**

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US 96/09143

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO-A-9311782	24-06-93	EP-A- 0618803	12-10-94
		US-A- 5512548	30-04-96
		US-A- 5519001	21-05-96
-----			
WO-A-9504755	16-02-95	AU-A- 7552694	28-02-95
		CA-A- 2145767	16-02-95
		EP-A- 0664813	02-08-95
		JP-T- 8502525	19-03-96
		US-A- 5519001	21-05-96
-----			